

In the claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for combining light comprising:
at least one beam combining unit provided as a double-refracting optical element;
at least a first laser source emitting a first light beam having a first polarization direction
and a second laser source emitting a second light beam having a second polarization direction,
the first and the second light beams having approximately the same wavelength and propagating
through the apparatus for combining light without being amplified; and

the first polarization direction conforming to that of an extraordinary beam of the beam
combining unit and the second polarization direction conforming to that of an ordinary beam of
the beam combining unit;

wherein the beam combining unit
combines the first light beam and the second light beam largely lossless and wherein the
combination of the first and second light beams is accomplished with reference to at least one
characteristic property of the first and second light beams.

Claims 2-5 (Previously cancelled)

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as defined in Claim 1, further comprising
an optical diode.

Claims 7-11 (Previously cancelled)

Claim 12. (Previously Amended) The apparatus as defined in Claim 1, characterized in
that the light sources are pulsed laser light sources defining a pulse profile over time wherein the
pulse profile over time is the characteristic property.

Claim 13. (Previously Amended) The apparatus as defined in Claim 12, characterized in
that the beam combining unit is configured as an acousto-optical deflector (AOD) (38) or, as an
electro-optical deflector (EOD).

Claim 14. (Previously Amended) The apparatus as defined in Claim 12, characterized in
that the pulses of the laser light sources are offset in time with respect to one another.

Claim 15. (Previously Amended) The apparatus as defined in Claim 12, characterized in that the individual light pulses are deflected, by a corresponding activation of an AOD or EOD, in the direction of a coaxially proceeding light beam.

Claims 16-29 (Previously cancelled)

Claims 30-42 (Previously cancelled)